

# Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

May 7, 2010

## Message from County Executive Walker

*The Milwaukee Connector study committee approved engineering work on a streetcar system this week. My appointee on the committee voted against this measure.*

*They also voted to support the city application for federal aid for their Circulator system. We need to direct all available transit funding toward upgrades to the current bus system. This is the system that gets transit-dependent residents to and from work every day.*

*Siphoning transit aid from the county-wide bus system for a downtown loop hurts those who rely on our buses and could hurt our ability to obtain grants for the existing transit system in the future.*

*We need to protect the current bus system and not create a new system that competes for precious funding.*

Scott

## Law Enforcement Memorial



## Law Enforcement Memorial



County Executive Walker attended the Greater Milwaukee Law Enforcement Memorial at Clas Park on the Courthouse grounds and issued a statement:

"We pay tribute to those in law enforcement who have given their lives to protect our communities," said Walker. "We hope this solemn event offers some measure of comfort to their families and serves as a reminder to the public of the sacrifices made to ensure our safety."



Surviving family member, Ms. Sung Ye Jacobs, spoke at the ceremony in memory of Sung Hui Bang of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.



## Union Contracts

County Executive Scott Walker issued the following statement after another of Milwaukee County's labor unions agreed to contract concessions consistent with the provisions in the 2010 budget. The County Executive will eliminate the additional furlough days and prevent layoffs of the attorneys union members through the end of the year.

"I am pleased that the members of the county attorneys union voted today to approve a contract that included the wage and benefit reforms the County Board and I included in the 2010 budget. I will rescind the 10 furlough days imposed earlier this year.

The Personnel Committee also deserves our thanks for supporting these reforms. This is a positive development as it is the third union to agree to the wage and benefit reforms. We are another step toward a balanced budget."

The Association of Milwaukee County Attorneys union joins TEAMCO and the Machinists and Aerospace Workers in agreeing to the modest wage and benefit reforms that are already in place for non-represented employees. These reforms include a wage freeze, no step increases, a \$30 per month health care premium increase, and a change in the pension multiplier to the same level that is used for state employees.

## Airport breaks records

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced this week that the number of passengers using General Mitchell International Airport in March 2010 set an all-time single-month record. The month's total of 896,598 passengers was an increase of 41.47 percent over last March's 633,763 passengers. The total eclipses the previous high month - July 2008 with 821,610 passengers. The March 2010 total marks seven straight months of passenger growth.

The number of passengers for the first quarter of 2010 also is a record at 2,262,597, a 39.57 percent increase over 2009's 1,621,067 passengers for the same period. Walker credited flight additions from Southwest, AirTran, Frontier/Midwest and Delta, saying, "In today's economy, it's all about the airfare. The added flights and low fares at Mitchell create a competitive situation that results in airfare deals for Wisconsin and northern Illinois passengers."

Mitchell once again is the fastest-growing airport in the nation. While passenger numbers topped 41 percent growth here in March, nationwide passenger travel rose just 1.4 percent.

## Rockwell Automation



County Executive Walker (pictured with CEO Keith Nosbusch and Senior VP Doug Hagerman) gave the keynote address at Rockwell Automation following their quarterly operations meeting. He spoke to the group on ways to improve the business climate.

## Community Events



County Executive Walker joined the Milwaukee County Council of the **Boy Scouts of America** for a tree planting on **Arbor Day**. They planted the last of 100 trees in commemoration of their 100th anniversary this year.

Walker also spoke at the **Governor's Prayer Breakfast** this week. Walker has addressed the gathering on an annual basis since 2002.

The **National Day of Prayer** was established through a bill in Congress signed by President Harry S. Truman in 1952, and amended by President Ronald Reagan to designate the first Thursday in May each year as the observance date.